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MTS-V03174

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: H. Nakamura et al. : Art Unit: 2787
Serial No.: 09/425,668 : Examiner:
Filed: October 22, 1999 :
FOR: TRANSMITTING/RECEIVING :
SWITCH AND PORTABLE
TERMINAL UNIT

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. No fee is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). Furthermore, all of the references disclosed herein were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application within the last three months.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, an attorney registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, hereby certifies that each reference disclosed in the subject Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months before the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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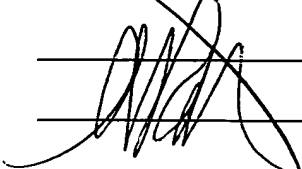
Encls.: PTO Form 1449,
Copy of (2) References, and
Search Report

Dated: July 6, 2000

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:



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